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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/PRINCIPALS ONLY UNCLASSIFIED April 26, 1970

National Security Decision Memorandum 57

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Attorney General
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Actions to Protect U.S. Forces in South Vietnam

Based on the National Security Council meeting of April 26, 1970, I direct that the following steps be taken to protect U.S. forces operating in South Vietnam:

-- Authorization for the conduct of ground operations by U.S. forces or by US/GVN forces into identified North Vietnamese/Viet Cong sanctuaries in Cambodia up to a depth of 30 kilometers. With the exception of the operation against Base Area 352/353, U.S. or combined US/ARVN operations against specific base areas will be submitted to me for approval on a case-by-case basis.

-- Authorization for the provision of U.S. tactical air/helicopter and artillery up to a depth of 30 kilometers in all base areas north of and including 352/353.

The Washington Special Actions Group is designated as the implementing authority for these steps.

Declassified/Released on 7/2/96
under provisions of E.O. 12958
by J. Saunders, National Security Council

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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